



Wichita Police Department Policy Manual

Approved by: _____

Policy 209 – Infectious Disease Policy

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Maintained by: Training
Bureau

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- 209.01 The purpose of this policy is to provide appropriate guidelines and procedures for members of the department to follow when they are exposed to, or potentially exposed to, an infectious or contagious disease during the course of their duties. It is also designed to encourage the routine use of precautionary measures in order to prevent or reduce the likelihood of such exposure incidents from occurring.
- 209.02 To minimize the potential for exposure to an infectious disease, members of the Department will adhere to the following preventative measures:
- A. Cover all open wounds or sores while at work, and change the bandage/dressing if it becomes wet or soiled. An open wound/fresh sore can give a virus a means of entry if the wound/sore is exposed to infected blood and/or body-fluids.
 - B. Be aware that certain prescribed medications [e.g., asthma medicine] suppress your immune system and make you more susceptible to infectious diseases. Consult your physician about any such possible effects of prescription drugs you are taking.
 - C. Do not eat, drink or smoke at the scene of incidents at which blood or other body-fluids are present, and keep hands away from your mouth and eyes at such locations.
 - D. Use caution when dealing with all persons. If possible, use defensive and verbal-control skills to minimize physical involvement with any person. If physical contact with any person occurs, even though no apparent blood or body-fluid contact occurs, thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water afterwards.
 - E. Use caution when conducting searches of vehicles, suspects, arrestees, homes, etc. Do not blindly place your hands in an area which might contain sharp objects that could puncture your skin.
 - F. Try to avoid direct contact with blood and/or other body-fluids of another person. However, if contact occurs, immediately and thoroughly wash any area of unprotected skin which comes into contact with such a fluid, using the towelettes found in a "First Responder Kit," if one is readily available; otherwise, use soap and water.
 - G. Utilize the protective equipment contained in a "First Responder Kit" if you are forewarned of any possibility of contact with another person's blood or body-fluid, and circumstances permit you to don the protective equipment.
 - 1. Use a protective airway when administering CPR.
 - 2. Wear protective gloves and the disposable smock whenever you are administering first-aid.
 - 3. Wear the safety glasses whenever the chance of blood and/or body-fluid spatter is present.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING A POSSIBLE BLOOD-TO-BLOOD OR BLOOD-TO-BODY-FLUID CONTACT:

- 209.03 If you receive a cut, puncture wound, human bite-wound, or any other injury which results in a possible blood-to-blood or body-fluid-to-blood exposure, immediately:
- A. Prompt the wound to bleed by applying pressure and "milking" it;
 - B. Wash the area thoroughly, using towelette(s) found in a First Responder Kit, if readily available; otherwise, use soap and water;
 - C. Seek immediate medical attention.
 - D. Notify a supervisor immediately.

DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR A HIGH-RISK EXPOSURE:

- 209.04 Any department member who believes they have been exposed to an infectious disease during the course of their duties shall immediately contact a supervisor. If a bona-fide exposure has occurred, the supervisor will ensure that the member is clinically and serologically evaluated for evidence of infection. The supervisor will ensure that the appropriate documentation be completed. This includes all workers compensation documentation along with all applicable cases being made.
- A. Examinations, treatment and follow-up care, will occur as directed by the attending physician and the follow-up workers compensation physician.
 - B. Any female member of the Department who is pregnant may also notify her personal physician of any direct, line-of-duty contact with blood and/or body-fluids. An infectious disease can cause severe problems during a pregnancy.

VEHICLE DECONTAMINATION PROCEDURES:

- 209.05 Disinfect any area(s) of a police vehicle which have come in contact with blood or other body-fluids as soon as possible, using a 1:10 solution of household bleach and water obtainable at any substation. Wear protective gloves when doing so.

DECONTAMINATION OF UNIFORM/CLOTHING ITEMS:

- 209.06 Any member of the Department whose uniform or clothing comes in contact with blood and/or other body-fluids of another person shall disinfect the contaminated uniform or clothing, as soon as possible, in the following manner:
- A. If the member's uniform or clothing has been lightly spattered with blood and/or body-fluids of another person: use a soap and water solution to remove as much of the blood and/or body-fluid as possible. The uniform or clothing item(s) may be taken home by the officer for further cleaning.
 - B. If the member's uniform or clothing has been saturated heavily with blood and/or body-fluids of another person: they will immediately remove the contaminated apparel and contact a supervisor. The supervisor will ensure the apparel is placed in a large bio-hazard bag and securely sealed. Under no circumstances will a member of the department take home any heavily saturated item of clothing/uniform for cleaning; it is a violation of federal regulations to do so.

DISPOSAL OF CONTAMINATED DISPOSABLE PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND/OR MATERIALS:

- 209.07 Members of the Department who utilize disposable protective equipment from their First Responder Kit, or any other disposable material(s), shall dispose of these items by placing them into a bio-hazard bag. The bio-hazard bag must be placed into a marked bio-disposable container available at any City Fire Station; at the Property and Evidence Facility; or if an EMS unit responds to an incident the Department member is working, the bio-hazard bag may be given to an EMS crew member. Do not dispose of bio-hazard bags into ordinary trash cans.

REPLACEMENT OF FIRST RESPONDER KIT ITEMS:

- 209.08 A Department member shall, immediately following utilization of any protective equipment from a First Responder Kit:
- A. For replacement of gloves, towelettes, or bio-hazard bags: Contact a supervisor.
 - B. For replacement of disposable smocks and/or CPR airways: During normal business hours, contact the Training Bureau for a replacement; if outside of normal business hours, notify a supervisor and note on your Officer's Daily Activity Report that a replacement smock and/or a CPR airway is needed. Supervisors shall ensure that a replacement is obtained as soon as possible.
 - C. Safety glasses: Place contaminated glasses into a bio-hazard bag and seal it shut. Transport the bag to any Patrol Station; obtain a 1:10 solution of bleach and water to de-contaminate the glasses over a sink. Wear protective gloves when doing so. Rinse glasses thoroughly, dry them, and replace in the First Responder Kit.

HANDLING/STORAGE OF BLOOD AND/OR BODY-FLUID CONTAMINATED PROPERTY/EVIDENCE ITEMS:

- 209.09 Department members shall adhere to the following regimen when handling, processing and storing any item(s) which has (have) potentially been contaminated with an infectious disease:
- A. Any item submitted to the Property and Evidence Section which has blood and/or body-fluids on it shall be treated as if it is contaminated with an infectious disease.
 - 1. Members shall wear protective gloves when handling any contaminated, or possibly contaminated item, and/or all property/evidence sacks which contain such items. These gloves shall then be placed into a marked bio-hazard receptacle after their use.
 - 2. Members shall clearly label the sack containing any contaminated, or possible contaminated item, as "POTENTIALLY INFECTIOUS" and shall place the sack into the specially-marked evidence locker at Property and Evidence.
 - 3. Any Department member who handles contaminated, or possibly contaminated items, shall thoroughly wash his/her hands with soap and water after completing submission procedures for the item.
 - C. The supervisor of the Property and Evidence Section shall ensure that the contents of the bio-hazard receptacle for contaminated waste materials are incinerated.

209.10 SPIT SHIELDS

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- A. The Spit Shields will be used only when there is a "reasonable belief" that the subject will use biological fluids (spit) to attempt to injure or contaminate the officer or others.
- B. Officers will contact a field supervisor whenever a Spit Shield is to be used or has been used to advise the supervisor of the circumstances surrounding the incident.
- C. The Spit Shield will be applied in the manner approved by the Department.
- D. In the event the subject was exposed to aerosol weapons, the officer will follow proper decontamination procedures (Reg. 4.109), prior to applying the Spit Shield, if possible.

- E. If the subject's actions prevent the officer from properly decontaminating the subject due to an attempt to spit on the officer, the officer will apply the Spit Shield and then transport the subject in a manner to offer fresh air on the subject's face and the aerosol weapon's exposed areas.
- F. A Use of Force form will be completed by the officer whenever a Spit Shield is applied.